



July 22, 2008

The Honorable John D. Dingell
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.
Chairman
Subcommittee on Health
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Joe Barton
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
2322A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nathan Deal
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Health
2322A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Bipartisan Leaders:

On behalf of the 53 million Americans represented by Divided We Fail, we applaud your efforts to advance thoughtful, bipartisan legislation to promote Health Information Technology (HIT).

Divided We Fail – comprised of AARP, Business Roundtable, Service Employees International Union (SEIU) and National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) – is an effort to break partisan gridlock to improve health care and long-term financial security for all Americans. Health IT, with its enormous potential to improve the quality and affordability of health care, precisely fits our agenda. We believe it is essential for Congress to enact Health IT legislation this year.

The Protecting Records, Optimizing Treatment, and Easing Communication through Healthcare Technology [PRO(TECH)T] Act of 2008 (H.R. 6357) marks real progress toward this goal. It will accelerate development of nationwide standards, provide financial incentives to encourage adoption of HIT, and address critical privacy and security concerns. We look forward to working with you and the Committee to pass HIT legislation that can be signed into law by the President this year.

Sincerely,
Divided We Fail

